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Proceedings
of

THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

THIRD ASSEMBLY.

SECOND SESSION SECOND MEETING—1945/1120.

Thursday, the 14th June 1945/32nd Idavom 1120.

The Travancore Sri Mulam Assembly re-assembled on Thursday the 14th June 1945/32nd Idavom 1120 at twelve of the clock in the Legislative Chamber, Public Offices, with Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., Dewan-President in the Chair.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following members took the oath and signed the Rolls :—

(1) Dr. S. John (*Surgeon General*)
(2) Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Food Supplies*)
(3) Mr. G. Narayanan Tampi (*Secretary to Government*)
(4) Mr. E. G. Salter (*Director of Transport*) and
(5) Mr. N. Velu Vaidyan (*Co-opted for the Thatchar Bill*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Thandaper Register.

184 *MR. V. MADHAVAN (Vaikom cum Kottayam) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of instances where the names of deceased persons have not been removed from Thandaper register and mutation of names has not been effected ?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes, in some cases.

MR. V. MADHAVAN : May I know whether this defect will be remedied without delay ?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Yes, Sir. Every step required in that behalf is being taken by Government.

Chirappu at Chengannur.

185 *MR. K. A. MATHEW (Tiruvalla) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Assistant Peishkar, Chengannur raised funds from the public for the purpose of conducting the last 'Chirappu' (ചിറപ്പ്) at Chengannur, and if so, the amount collected and the names of persons from whom money was collected ?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: No. In the light of this answer, the second part of the question does not arise.

MR K. A. MATHEW: May I know from the honourable member whether any finance for conducting this "Chirappu" was raised from the public?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Sir, the question is not clear.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether money for conducting this "Chirappu" was ever raised from the public?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: That does not arise from this question, Sir.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Sir, may I know whether any money was raised from the public of Changannur for conducting the "Chirappu"?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: There is no information here. The question is 'will the Government be pleased to state whether the Assistant Peishkar, Chengannur, collected any funds from the public for the conduct of chirappu" and the answer is that he has not collected any funds.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: My point is whether the Government have any information as to whether the Assistant Peishkar did parlicipate in the chirappu by way of collecting funds and so on?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Apart from offering worship in the temple and participating in the festival in accordance with the individual's religious beliefs, the Assistant Peishkar does not appear to have had anything to do with the functions.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the Government are aware that there is a practice in several parts of the State for officers of the Revenue and other departments to take part in the collection of funds for conducting chirappus?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: No, Sir. I may also state, for the information of the Honourable Member that some years ago when there was such a question in connection with a function at Minachil, the Dewan issued very strict orders directing that officers should not go about collecting money for such functions on pain of serious notice.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Are the Government aware that in spite of such strict orders from the Dewan, some officials are still doing this kind of thing?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: No, Sir.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the Government will enquire into the matter and try to know whether this officer has done anything of the kind?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: If specific instances are brought to the notice of Government either openly or confidentially, I may assure the honourable member that Government will not hesitate to take the necessary steps.

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Thiruvalla*): May I know whether the Government are aware that this chirappu was conducted under the supervision of the non-official Hindus of the locality and that Government officials had absolutely no financial responsibility in the matter except that those who were willing donated for the fund.

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Government have absolutely no information about the chirappu in question nor have they any concern about it.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Sir, in view of the statement made by the Secretary to Government that if any specific instance is brought to the notice of Government they would enquire into it, now that I have brought it to the notice of Government, will the Government take action?

PRESIDENT: Does the honourable member make himself responsible for the suggestion that the Assistant Peishkar, Chengannur, collected money for the chirappu?

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Sir, I do make myself responsible for that.

PRESIDENT: Then an enquiry will be held on that matter.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether the Government are aware that it is only the Hindu section of the Bar Association, Chengannur, that is mainly responsible for the conduct of the chirappu in the Chengannur temple.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Whether the Bar Association, Chengannur or the non officials of Chengannur make themselves responsible for the chirappu is a matter with which Government have nothing to do and they are not concerned with them. But if the honourable member Mr. Mathew had made himself responsible as he has this morning for the definite allegation that the Assistant Peishkar, Chengannur, has been collecting funds for chirappu from officials or non officials, a public enquiry will be held on that matter. Anybody entitled to give evidence in that public enquiry may do so and the result of that public enquiry will be published.

I shall take this occasion also to say that whether on account of chirappu or the Vanchi Poor Fund or any like thing, if officials or non officials consider that by collecting funds for that purpose, they are going to get any advantages or any particular prayer granted or licenses or permits granted or exemptions allowed, they will be very much mistaken and as has been made perfectly clear, unless the standard is kept up by the officers and by others, we shall not be able to get a proper effort of benevolence. Unlike most other States, there has been very little contribution by the public for important religious occasions. The conduct of chirappu is as important for the public as the conduct of festivals by Muslims or by Christians and it is quite open to officials and non officials to subscribe to such funds and be present if they are Hindus at Hindu festivals, if a Muslim for the Muslim festival, if a Christian for the Christian festival. But if any one of these functionaries misuse their position for the purpose of collecting subscriptions for these things in their official capacity, they will be very severely dealt with. Similarly, in the case of any fund, it

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[President]

is open to any official to contribute to a fund benevolent in character like the Y. M. C. A. or the Y. W. C. A. or the Vanchi Poor Fund and so forth, but if the official position is misused for the collection of funds, the same rule will be applied. There will be a public enquiry held on this matter and I trust that officials and non officials will co-operate in seeing the truth coming out in this matter.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, may I be permitted to make a statement?

PRESIDENT: Please do.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, in Chengannur there are two kinds of chirappus conducted in the local temple, the Ashtami chirappu and Trikarthika chirappu from time immemorial. This function is financed mainly under the responsibility of the Hindu section of the local Bar Association and the Hindu members of that body participate actively in such a function. Of course I do concede that the presiding officer.....

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether it is right on the part of the honourable member to make such a statement at this stage?

PRESIDENT: He asked my permission and I allowed that.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: The presiding officer wlfether he be a Christian or Mahomedan without distinction of caste, community or religion has been co-operating as far as possible to make the function a success. As I said this chirappu is mainly a Hindu function. Free and voluntary donations from non Hindus were also received in a few cases.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member asked my permission to make a statement. The question is whether the Assistant Peishkar, Chengannur, raised funds from the public for the conduct of the chirappu. That is the only allegation which the Government have to deal with. If it is proved that he raised funds from the public for the conduct of the chirappu, he will have to be dealt with. If it is proved that he has not raised funds from the public the person who made that allegation will have no doubt to make ample amends.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I take this opportunity to bodly assure the honourable members of this House that the Assistant Peishkar, Chengannur, had absolutely nothing to do with the financial responsibility in connection with the chirappu except to the extent that he went to the temple on the particular day and wholeheartedly co-operated with the non-officials there and also donated a decent amount from his pocket. He did worship in the temple. I may assure also that he had not received a single cash collected for the conduct of the chirappu.

PRESIDENT: I think that will come up in the public enquiry.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: It is regrettable that an allegation of this sort should be made on the floor of the House relating to religious worship and the conduct of such functions in temples.

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PRESIDENT: The question whether an officer attended a temple is immaterial. It is hoped that a Hindu will attend the temple in connection with Hindu festivals and it is also hoped that Hindu officers will every day attend temples. I trust that they will do so hereafter and I take it that Christians and Muslims will also attend their churches and mosques at the proper time. I find now that many Hindu officers do not attend Hindu temples. It is up to the Hindu officers to attend temples and see that Hindu observances are kept up and continued but that is quite an independent matter from the question of collecting funds which is a very serious affair.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: It is indeed regrettable to find that only this time a question was raised. When Mr. Mathew was the Assistant Peishkar, Chengannur, or when Mr. Kasim was the District Munsiff at Chengannur, even though such functions were conducted in the very same line, no such question was raised.

PRESIDENT: Did those officers attend the function?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: They went to the temple and supervised the whole function from outside.

PRESIDENT: Who is the present Assistant Peishkar, Chengannur?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Mr. S. Kochukrishna Pillai.

Sir, I must state that officers, in addition to their official capacity do possess the privilege of associating themselves with the religious functions and festivals.

PRESIDENT: All these matters are topics for discussion during the public enquiry. If it is found that as a result of the public enquiry unjust aspersions have been cast and that similar charges were not made when people of other communities were Assistant Peishkars, I think it is the right and the duty of Government to expose that position.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I am only sorry that this occasion was availed of by an honourable member of this House for this sort of purpose and in this manner.

Market contractors.

186 *MR. E. K. MADHAVAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the fact that market contractors in Municipal and non-Municipal areas of the State are still charging for both handloads and headloads?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: The market contractors in Municipal areas are not restricted from charging for handloads and headloads. In regard to the non-Municipal areas the answer is in the negative.

MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether the market contractors in non-Municipal areas are collecting charges for both handloads and headloads from the Edapally market?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: As regards non-Municipal markets Government have passed orders to the effect that no charges should be collected for handloads and headloads.

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